

# Montana Post \* Volume 42, Number 2 \* Summer 2004

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## From the Director

**Arnie Olsen**

Over the past couple of years we have learned much about what the "Greatest Generation" did to save democracy and freedom during World War II and the hard times that shaped that generation into a force for freedom, democracy, and justice.

While national attention has focused on D-Day and the sacrifices made by World War II veterans, the Montana Historical Society has begun to tell the story of our state during the Great Depression and World War II.

A book by the Montana Historical Society Press, a new exhibit in Montana's Museum, and a traveling exhibit that is making its way across the state explores those years, both the hard times and the hope people found despite the odds.

Our own Society Trustee Mary Murphy authored the book and co-curated the exhibits, all of which share the title *Hope in Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana, 1936-1942*. Both book and exhibits have brought more than a few tears to the eyes of those who lived through the Depression and have helped younger generations gain a new respect for the struggles of their forebearers.

The book already has become one of Press's best sellers. It also won the second annual Montana Book Award, which recognizes literary and/or artistic excellence in a book that is set in Montana, deals with Montana themes or issues, or is written, edited, or illustrated by a Montana author or artist. Murphy is a history professor at Montana State University, and publication of her book reminds us that the Society Press remains a primary force in scholarly and popular publishing in Montana.

In May our Museum opened a new temporary exhibit based on the book, which displays Depression-era photographs and other related artifacts in our collection. It is history at its fullest. More than 150 people came to the opening of the exhibit. It was a joy to see the older members of the crowd telling stories about their experiences, memories of which were sparked by viewing the exhibit.

Even more memories of both hard and good times were shared a week before, when two octogenarians discussed their Depression-era experiences with members of the Society's book club, "Pages in History," who had gathered at the Society after reading Murphy's book.

The sharing of stories continues in an interactive area in the new exhibit, where people can record their own experiences during the Depression and World War II for others to share and

learn from. The exhibit will be up all summer, and we hope that you get a chance to come see it for yourself.

For those of you who can't make it to Helena, we hope you'll be able to catch the traveling exhibit. Watch for it in your local media. The book, of course, is for sale at local bookstores and through our own Museum Store.

Many members of our staff were involved in bringing this story to you, and the success of the project demonstrates just how important all of the programs in the Society are to telling the Montana story. It also shows that that story is not only important, but also highlights the importance of presenting it in a variety of ways to make it as accessible as possible.

Our work on this particularly moving project has reminded us that each of us helps shape Montana history by the lives we live. Let us never forget that our history has made us who we are and who we will become in both good and hard times.

## Coming August 2004: Western Rendezvous of Art

Coming off a record-breaking year for art sales, the 2004 Western Rendezvous of Art promises to be a "boat load" of fun along the headwaters of the Missouri River.

The forty-four members of the Northwest Rendezvous Group of Artists, who are the heart of Rendezvous, have invited 15 distinguished guest artists from across the country to join them for the show August 19-22.

A favorite event of Rendezvous attendees, the Gates of the Mountains Missouri River Tour and barbeque along the river with the artists, has been brought back this year by popular demand.



Quang Ho, who will give a seminar at this year's Rendezvous of Western Art, painting at the Quick Draw, one of the Rendezvous' treasured traditions.

The Society and the City of Helena Civic Center Board co-sponsor the Rendezvous that includes an art show, a "Meet the Artists Autograph Party," two art seminars, a Gala Banquet and Art Sale, and the granddaddy of all Quick Draw auctions at the historic Sieben Ranch.

For a full list of participating artists, more information, or to make advance discount reservations, call 406-442-4263, or e-mail [westrdz@aol.com](mailto:westrdz@aol.com). Or visit the web site at [www.westrendart.com](http://www.westrendart.com).

## Society Urges Members to Share the Gift of History

The Society has begun a campaign urging members to share the gift of history. If you are looking for a gift that keeps on giving all year long, please consider giving a Montana Historical Society membership for holidays, birthdays, or other special occasions. As a Society supporter, you are our best ambassador and can help us share the rich history and heritage of Montana and the West with others.

Each membership includes a subscription to our award-winning magazine, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*; free admission to Montana's Museum and the Original Governor's Mansion; invitations to members-only Society events; and much more. Additional membership information is available in every issue of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, by visiting [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org), or by calling us at 1-800-243-9900.

With your help, we can continue to preserve and protect Montana's history so that it can be shared with all who value Montana's heritage for many generations to come.

## Oral History Interviews Now Catalogued On-Line

Nearly 1,600 oral history interviews have been added to the Montana Historical Society Research Center's growing online catalog. The catalog can be accessed through the Society's website at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/library/onlinecatalogs.asp](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/library/onlinecatalogs.asp).

The majority of the interviews resulted from large oral history projects that were conducted by society staff from 1983 to 1997 (interviews conducted from 1997 to the present will be added in the coming months). The projects include "Montanans at Work"; "Small Town Montana"; "The New Deal in Montana"; "20<sup>th</sup> Century Veterans in Montana"; and "Medicine, Healthcare and Nursing in Montana". The interviews, chronicling the experiences of Montanans from all corners of the state, can be listened to in the Research Center and borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. Copies of the interviews can be purchased for personal use. With the addition of the interview descriptions to our on-line catalog, researchers can search for oral histories by the name of the interviewee, the interviewer, the project name, or general topics. And because patrons will be conducting research through our online catalog, topical searches will yield results from our published library collections as well, thus greatly increasing research efficiency.

For more information about the MHS oral history collection or oral history in general, contact Jodie Foley at [jofoley@state.mt.us](mailto:jofoley@state.mt.us) or 406-444-6779.

## NEH Grant Funds Twentieth-Century Montana History Project

The Montana Historical Society received a \$197,000 grant award this spring from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund a new educational project titled *The Big Picture: Montana in the 20th Century*.

*The Big Picture* will present twentieth-century Montana history, in DVD format, through twelve, fifteen-minute documentaries. Aimed at middle and high school audiences, the twelve mini-documentaries will focus on six main themes: Industrialization and Deindustrialization; Relocation and Dislocation; Ethnic Migration; Federalization; Environmentalism; and Progressivism.

Independent film-maker Gita Saedi will produce the films, in cooperation with the Society and KUFM-Montana PBS in Missoula.

The grant includes funding for a weeklong summer teacher institute in 2006—which the Society will host in conjunction with the Carroll College Education Department—and the development of a companion website, which will feature lesson plans and other related material.

As part of the grant, all middle school and high school libraries in the state will receive a complementary copy of the series, which will also be for sale in the Museum Store in 2006.

## Friends Donate Time and Money

The Friends of the Society, the organization of Montana Historical Society's volunteers, recently voted to donate a thousand dollars to the Museum department for the crafting of two cradleboards for the new exhibit, *Neither Empty or Unknown*, slated to open in 2005. In addition to their monetary donation, the Friends donated 8,561 hours to the Society in 2003, serving as student and adult tour guides, hosting receptions, and providing administrative office assistance to every program.

The 130 members of the Friends of the Society were honored April 19, 2004, for their dedication to Montana's history and heritage. Intended as a "thank you" to all of the Society's volunteers, the celebration offered special recognition to twenty-five Friends who each gave between 100 and 500 hours to the Society in 2003. The ceremony also recognized long-time volunteers, including those with over twenty years of service: Doris Hitt, Mary Munger, Muriel Wild, Elizabeth Walsh, Betty Jones, Denise Pennington, and Mary Hanson.

Since the April celebration, the Friends have continued to provide invaluable service to the Society, including donating 92 hours to move over 4,000 books from the Museum Library to

the Law Library in May 2004. To become a volunteer or learn more about the Friends, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553 or [dsullivan@state.mt.us](mailto:dsullivan@state.mt.us).

## Four New Montana Sites Listed in the National Register

The Montana Historical Society is pleased to announce that the McCormick Neighborhood Historic District, the Missoula Mercantile Warehouse, Bones Brothers Ranch, and Bearcreek Bank have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of properties worthy of preservation.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office and the Missoula Office of Historic Preservation sponsored the designation of the McCormick Neighborhood Historic District. The district's boundaries encompass a residential neighborhood that developed from the late 1800s through the early 1950s, and the area has played a significant part in the early and continuous commercial and industrial development of Missoula.

The Missoula Mercantile Company Warehouse is the last remaining wholesale warehouse building directly connected to Missoula's and western Montana's most powerful retail-merchandising firm, and is directly associated with the commercial and architectural development of the city.

The Bones Brothers Ranch near Birney represents the unique role dude ranches played in the history of agriculture, tourism, and architecture. A generous grant by the Montana Land Title Association provided the financial support to have this truly significant property recognized.

Constructed shortly after the town's founding, the Bearcreek Bank building was significant to the development of the small mining camp from 1906 until 1928. It gains additional significance as the finest example of stone construction remaining in Bearcreek.



The Bearcreek Bank, one of four properties listed on the National Register in May 2004. Photograph by Kristi Hager, 2002

## History Happenings

To celebrate **Helena's 140th anniversary**, the Society partnered with the Downtown Business Improvement District and the Helena High School X-Cel students to create three traveling exhibits that show how mining, people, and events have shaped the community. X-Cel students designed and built the exhibits with photographs and text provided by the Society. A **week of events, July 11-15**, will also help commemorate the landmark anniversary. "Celebrate One-Forty" kicks off with "Good Old Summertime Day" at the Original Governor's Mansion from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The following day, MHS interpretive historian Ellen Baumlér will provide tours of the historic Pioneer Cabin, Helena's oldest documented dwelling, and its neighborhood. Driving tours of the National Register-listed West Main Street Historic District and tours of the Grizzly Gulch Lime Kilns by MDT historian Jon Axline will complement the first evening's festivities. Axline and Baumlér will again team up to moderate an evening of historic films about Helena, hosted at the Myrna Loy Center. Later that week, DEQ's mining expert John Koerth will present a program, "Last Chance Gulch and the Golden Fleece," at the Society. These and other events promise a fun-filled celebration (see calendar for details).



The **on-line index** of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* has been updated and now includes the 2001 through 2003 issues. To use it, visit <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/magazine/ReferenceIndex.asp>.

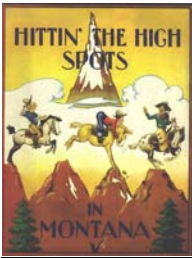
On April 20-21, 2004, the **Montana Historical Society's Indian Advisory Panel** convened in Helena for the second time. This Panel was established in 2002 to counsel Society staff on a broad range of Native American issues. It is comprised of 28 representatives from all of the state's Indian tribes, from Montana's seven tribal colleges, and from urban Indian groups. A Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission grant funded the 2004 meeting. Discussion at the April gathering focused on the Society's exhibit-in-progress, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark*. The panel addressed such diverse topics as methods of presentation, the inclusion of broad tribal perspectives, and the appropriateness of displaying sensitive materials. Society staff will use the panel members' recommendations to guide the Society's formulation of the upcoming exhibit.



Members of The Society's Indian advisory panel pose with Society staff for a photograph at their recent meeting. Back row, left to right: Sean Chandler, John Allen, Kitty Belle Deer Nose, Tina Raush, Conrad Fisher, Henry Anderson, Mariette King, and Darrell Kipp. Front row, left to right: Society Curator George Oberst, Elias Goes Ahead, Pat Chief Stick, Tony Incashola, Francis Auld, and Society Director Arnie Olsen. Photograph by J. M. Cooper

The Research Center is pleased to announce the addition of an **unpublished history of the Montana Power Company** to its collection. Written in 1969 by long-time employee Cecil Kirk, the manuscript covers the history of MPC from the introduction of electricity into Montana until the 1960s. Copies of the complete manuscript are available from the Research Center for a fee. For more information, contact State Archivist Molly Kruckenberg at [mkruckenberg@state.mt.us](mailto:mkruckenberg@state.mt.us).

On April 23-24, 2004, State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth, Cultural Records Manager and Archaeologist Damon Murdo, and Archaeology Intern Melissa Ray, all from the **Preservation Office**, teamed up with 23 **Harlowton High School Montana Heritage Project** students to record four archaeological sites in the Harlowton and Martinsdale areas. The Preservation Office staff supplied historic context, training, and materials and served as crew leaders. Students located features, snapped photographs, and took measurements needed to create database site forms for a wickiup, a buffalo jump, and two separate tipi ring sites. Students also employed Global Positioning System technology to record site boundaries and features. The full field report describes this unique partnership: <http://edheritage.org/field/03-04/04Apr24-Harlo-1.html>



The **Thirty-first Annual Montana History Conference**, "Hittin' the High Spots: History in Northwestern Montana," will take place **October 28-30, 2004**, at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in **Whitefish**. Keynote speaker Dr. Harry Fritz will kick off the conference on Thursday night with his talk "Lost in Montana: The Truth about Lewis and Clark." Other highlights include Rick Allen on the origin of the vigilantes, Lyndel Meikle and Gerard Baker on the changing role of National Park rangers, and Mike Yochim on the controversy about snowmobiles in Glacier and Yellowstone. In a panel on northwestern Montana writers, Sue Hart

Irvin 'Shorty' Shope's comic image, from a 1938 promotional pamphlet, provides the graphic and title for this year's Montana History Conference. Image from Montana Historical Society

will discuss the work of Whitefish native Dorothy Johnson and Debra Earling will talk about novelist James Welch. Rosalyn La Pier and Shirlee Crow Shoe will present a Thursday workshop about the use of native plants among the Blackfeet and will be joined by archaeologist Steve Aaberg for a Friday session on ethnobotany. For more information, please visit [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/histconf.asp](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/histconf.asp).

**Doug O'looney** was hired in early June as **assistant museum preparator** to assist in the planning and construction of the Museum's new long-term exhibit, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark*, slated to open in 2005. O'looney has many years of finish carpentry experience as well as skills in working with other materials including masonry, finishes, and plastics. The Assistant Museum Preparator is a one-year position funded by the Sobotka Family Trust.

Education Officer **Kristin Gallas** left the Montana Historical Society in May to become Director of Education and Interpretation at the *USS Constitution* Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. Kristin was with the Society for six years and, among other accomplishments, successfully wrote an NEH grant to produce twelve educational DVD documentaries on twentieth-century Montana history (see related story, above).



***A Tenderfoot in Montana: Reminiscences of the Gold Rush, the Vigilantes, and the Birth of Montana Territory***, by Francis M. Thompson and edited by Kenneth N. Owens, will be available from the **Montana Historical Society Press** in September 2004. Thompson's lively memoir details his experiences in the upper Missouri country at the beginnings of the Montana gold rush. A self-styled tenderfoot, Thompson recalls his days on the mining frontier with clarity and insight, making him an unmatched eyewitness for Montana's formative years. The book can be preordered for \$14.95 by calling 1-800-243-9900 or via the web: [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/press/forthcoming.asp](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/press/forthcoming.asp).

The **Virginia City Preservation Partnership and Certified Local Government Conference** is slated for July 15-16, 2004, in Virginia City. The focus of the conference is heritage area development, and sessions will explore successful preservation efforts and provide information about the resources available to encourage historic preservation. Conference speakers will include Dr. Carroll Van West of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Greg Kendrick from the National Park Service, Sarah Hansen from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Chere Jiusto from the Montana Preservation Alliance, Victor Bjornberg from Montana Tourism, Maire O'Neill of Montana State University, and Ken Sievert of Davidson/Kuhr Architects. Conference sponsors are the Town of Virginia City Historic Preservation Program, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, and the Montana Heritage Commission. Registration is \$50 before July 1, and \$65 to \$75 after July 1. For additional information and a schedule, please contact Jim Jarvis at 406-843-5321 or at [vchistorysmith@yahoo.com](mailto:vchistorysmith@yahoo.com).

The **autumn issue** of Montana's favorite history magazine, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, will include articles on Montana vigilantes, the 1866 Fetterman fight, frontier army deserters, the Mann Gulch fire, war brides, Anaconda's Old Works golf course, Bearcreek, and a Montana murderer. Subscribe on-line, [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/default.asp](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/default.asp), or by calling 1-800-243-9900.

The National Park Service has recognized the importance and quality of Montana's efforts to commemorate the **Lewis and Clark Bicentennial** by awarding nearly \$1 million, or 20 percent its total 2004 grants, to 31 projects across Montana. The projects range from events—such as the International Traditional Games Society's "Culture and Tradition Through Tribal Games"—to museum exhibits, publications, and interpretive signs.

The Society has partnered with ExplorationWorks! to offer **two pioneer history camps**, one for seven to eleven year olds (July 26-30, 2004) and one for twelve to fourteen year olds (August 2-6, 2004). While the camps will feature different age-appropriate activities, both will run from 9:00

a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will offer campers a chance to experience what life was like in the 1890s. From their base in the Society's third-floor classroom, campers will discover how everyday tasks were done, what kids used to do for fun, and the joys and difficulties faced by Montana's nineteenth-century inhabitants. Registration is \$120. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information and to register, contact Suzanne or Daphne at 404-457-1800 or visit [www.communityworks.net/summer2004.html](http://www.communityworks.net/summer2004.html). Registration forms are also available through the Montana Historical Society's education department, 406-444-4789.



Two girls look for sapphires at Pioneer Kids camp in 2003. Photograph courtesy ExplorationWorks!



MHS's **new calendar for 2005** features intriguing recipes from the Library's Historic Montana Community Cookbook Collection and food-related historical photographs from the Society's Photograph Archives. Recipes include ones for dandelion wine, venison steak, sweet potato pie, coffee fudge, mint punch, and serviceberry cakes. Calendars will be available in July for \$8.50 on local newsstands and through the Museum Store (800-243-9900 or [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org).)

## Calendar

All programs are free, open to the public, and held at the Montana Historical Society unless otherwise noted.

June 28, 8:00 p.m.: ***The Far Horizons* Film Screening.** Join film historian James D'Arc for a screening of *The Far Horizons*. This 1955 cult classic, starring Fred McMurray as Lewis, Charlton Heston as Clark, and Donna Reed as Sacajawea, chronicles the expedition's daring journey to the Pacific. D'Arc will provide commentary on the film. Myrna Loy Center. \$10.00.

July 11-15: **Celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the Discovery of Gold at Last Chance Gulch!** See below.

August 5, 7:00 p.m.: ***Spirit Tailings!*** Historian Ellen Baumler will share newly collected ghost stories about Helena. Book signing at 6:30 p.m. MHS west lawn, bring chairs/blanket. Picnic dinners welcome.

August 12, 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.: **All Play and No Work! Family Activity Day.** Come perform chores that were once work for Montana kids but are now play for you. Butter churning, soap making, clothes washing, wood sawing, wool carding, and other cool chores.

August 19-22: **Western Rendezvous of Art.** Visit [www.westrendart.com](http://www.westrendart.com) for registration information.

August 20: **Western Rendezvous of Art Seminars.** Civic Center Auditorium, free and open to the public.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. "The Uniqueness of Relief Sculpture: An Illustrated Seminar," Eugene Daub

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. "Breaking Down the Art of Seeing: A Painting Demonstration,"  
Quang Ho

## Helena 140th Anniversary Events

A week of events will mark the 140th Anniversary of the Discovery of Gold at Last Chance Gulch. Co-sponsored by the Montana Historical Society, Downtown Helena Inc., the Lewis and Clark Library, and the Myrna Loy Center. Admission to all events is free.

July 11, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: **Good Old Summertime**. Food, fun activities, live music, and more. Original Governor's Mansion, 304 N. Ewing

July 12, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: **Historic Helena Tours**. Tour two of Helena's most historic areas— Reeder's Alley/Pioneer Cabin (tours on the hour at 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00) and the Grizzly Gulch lime kilns (tours on the half hour at 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30). Pioneer Cabin and Grizzly Gulch lime kilns

July 13, 8:00 p.m.: **Historic Helena on Film**. Join historians Ellen Baumler and Jon Axline for a look at Helena on historic film footage featuring images of the aftermath of the 1935 earthquakes, pre-urban renewal landscapes, the pre-demolition auction at the Broadwater Hotel, and early Vigilante Parade footage. Myrna Loy Center

July 14, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: **Alive @ Five**. Downtown Helena's favorite summer pastime will honor the gold discovery that took place 140 years ago today. Food, music, family activities, and more! Anchor Park

July 15, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: **Gold Strike! Family Activity Day**. Ever wish to strike it rich? Try your hand at gold panning, a treasure hunt, and other fun mining-related activities. Society Lawn

July 15, 7:00 p.m.: **"Last Chance Gulch and the Golden Fleece—The Helena Mining District: The Bumpy Road to Prosperity and Prominence,"** John Koerth. Society Auditorium

## Summer Hours

### Montana's Museum and Museum Store

#### Through September 30

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Thursday evening until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays

#### Museum Admission Fee

\$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$12.00 per family

### Research Center

*Library and Archives*: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

*Photograph Archives*: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

## Capitol Guided Tours

#### Through September 30

Tours begin on the hour. Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 2:00.



Sundays, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 3:00. Closed Holidays. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

## **Original Governor's Mansion**

### **Through September 30**

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour. Last tour begins at 3:00. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

### **OGM Admission Fee**

\$4.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$10.00 per family